The Charlotte Catholic Band has had four band directors in the past four years, beginning with Lauren Williams and now currently Joshua Potter.

The band has been all over the place in the previous school years because of the differing approaches of Mrs. Williams, Mr. Rudd, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Potter. The previous band directors have left for varying reasons, for example, Mrs. Smith was pregnant and chose not to return.

While many students find it hard to cope with the constant changes and different approaches of each band director, others feel it has improved their understanding of music.

Senior Matt Martin said, “Each teacher has their own style, [and] we have had a different sound with each director. So far this year, the band is adjusting to Mr. Potter well and I think the music will be the best yet.”

Although Mr. Potter’s teaching style is a lot different from what the band is used to, band students feel that they are now able to go beyond what is written on the page and make the music their own.

Once the band adjusts to Mr. Potter’s teaching style, students will notice more interpretive play and more freedom for the players to make musical decisions that will show more individuality and passion than in previous years. Band students were happy to be given the opportunity to express themselves through their music.

“One thing I like about Mr. Potter is his passion for music. He is by far the most intense director I have ever had but I don’t mind because you can tell he loves what does and he sets a good tone for the band to follow,” said Matt Martin.

Mr. Potter’s love of music reflects in the way his class is run and his approach in teaching students.

“I like that our new director is extremely knowledgeable, and it shows when he teaches,” said Alex McGuire.

While earlier directors have had styles that were precise and easy to follow, Mr. Potter teaches that music has life and therefore flows with the feeling of the music. Students find this approach harder to follow but they like it.

Through all of this “band chaos,” players have been exposed to four different pairs of ears and opinions that have improved their music throughout the years. All band students mutually agree that Mr. Potter definitely is an expert.

“He is a good band teacher and seems to know what he is doing,” said sophomore Natascha Loeb.

Students should expect to see changes and improvement in the band’s music this year on behalf of Mr. Potter.